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## NOTES AND NEWS

### ANNUAL MEETING ASSOCIATION OF MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHERS OF THE MIDDLE STATES AND MARYLAND

The fifth annual meeting of this Association was held at Vassar College on Saturday, December first. In spite of heavy rain it was well attended. These meetings are an inspiration to teachers always and fortunate the schools whose boards send them free of expense to bring back that inspiration to their own work, to their school and to their town.

The address of the president, Professor John P. Hoskins of Princeton University, dealt with the work of the Federation of which this Association held the chairmanship for 1916-17.

THE MODERN LANGUAGE JOURNAL begins its second year with 2200 subscribers, a great credit to all who have worked for it, especially its managing editor, Prof. Bagster-Collins and its hard-worked business manager, Prof. Busse.

Professor Hoskins as head of the Federation has acted as chairman of the committee on a syllabus of High School Texts. A committee of sixteen, eight from the East and eight from the West has been appointed.

The report of the secretary, Professor Anna Woods Ballard of Teachers College, announced a membership of 290 and requested prompt payment of dues as a saving of labor and expense.

Mr. L. A. Roux of Newark Academy, chairman of the Committee on Investigations and Resolutions reported for his committee which has been working on the problem of oral work for college entrance.

These papers followed:

Dr. Julius A. Sachs, Professor emeritus of Teachers College, Columbia University: "The Desirability of a Syllabus of French and German Texts."

Prof. Anna Woods Ballard, Teachers College, Columbia University: "What is and what will be the Position of this Association in Relation to the State Associations in the same Territory?" (A ten minute talk to bring conditions to the attention of the meeting).

Prof. Henry A. Todd, Columbia University, "A Simple Phonetic Notation as an Aid in the Oral and Aural Tests in French."

The chair appointed as nominating committee: Prof. Claudine Gray, Prof. L. L. Stroebe and Mr. Warren, and as auditing committee, Dr. Jonas, Prof. F. von Unwirth and Miss Mary Fay.

The following officers were elected: President, Prof. Marian P. Whitney; first vice-president, Prof. J. P. W. Crawford; second vice-president, Prof. E. B. Davis; secretary and treasurer, Prof. Anna W. Ballard; director of Federation, Prof. Charles A. Downer.

ANNA WOODS BALLARD.

The Bureau of Education in its City School Circular 1917, No. 4, "Foreign Languages in the Elementary Grades, Suggested Policy" makes the following suggestions:

There is general agreement among educators and public men, both in this country and abroad, that there should be no interference with existing high school and college provision for the teaching of German; that a knowledge of the German language is more important now than it was before the war. The upper elementary grades, especially where organized in the junior high school, may quite properly offer foreign languages, including German, but educators generally look upon the teaching of foreign languages in the lower elementary grades as of very questionable value.

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